Agenda Date: 3/22/07 Agenda Item: VA



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Board of Public Utilities
Two Gateway Center
Newark, NJ 07102
www.bpu.state.nj.us

IN THE MATTER OF THE JOINT PETITION)	WATER
OF UNITED WATER NEW JERSEY INC.,)	
UNITED WATER ARLINGTON HILLS INC.,	j	ORDER SUSPENDING INCREASES.
UNITED WATER HAMPTON INC., UNITED)	CHANGES OR ALTERATIONS
WATER VERNON HILLS INC., AND UNITED)	IN RATES FOR SERVICE
WATER LAMBERTVILLE INC. FOR)	
APPROVAL OF AN INCREASE IN RATES)	
FOR WATER SERVICE AND OTHER)	
TARIFF CHANGES; AND FOR APPROVAL)	
TO MERGE THE OPERATIONS OF THE)	
JOINT PETITIONERS INTO, AND WITH,)	
UNITED WATER NEW JERSEY INC.)	BPU DOCKET NO. WR07020135

(SERVICE LIST ATTACHED)

BY THE BOARD:

On February 23, 2007, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-21, 48:2-18, 48:3-7 and 48:3-10, and N.J.A.C. 14:1-5.12, 14:1-5.8 and 14:9-7.1 et seq., United Water New Jersey, Inc. (UWNJ), United Water Arlington Hills, Inc. (UWAH), United Water Hampton, Inc. (UWH), United Water Vernon Hills, Inc. (UWVH), and United Water Lambertville, Inc. (UWL), (collectively, Joint Petitioners) public utilities of the State of New Jersey subject to the jurisdiction of the Board of Public Utilities (Board), filed a joint petition for approval of an increase in rates for water service and other tariff changes amounting to approximately \$35,794,000 or 28%; and for approval to merge the operations of the Joint Petitioners into, and with, United Water New Jersey, Inc. The increase in rates is proposed to become effective on March 30, 2007. Joint Petitioners do not seek interim rate relief pending final determination on the petition. Joint Petitioners seek the requested increase, inter alia, to recover increased expenses, planned capital expenditures and to obtain an opportunity to earn a reasonable return on investment in utility plant.

The Joint Petitioners serve approximately 190,000 water customers located in the northern and western portions of the State. Specifically, UWNJ serves approximately 186,000 customers in portions of Bergen, Hudson, Passaic and Sussex Counties. UWNJ also supplies water service to other municipalities including the Township of Saddle Brook and the Boroughs of Fairlawn, Saddle River, Allendale, Mahwah and Ramsey. UWAH serves approximately 613 customers in the Borough of Mount Arlington and a portion of the Township of Roxbury in Morris County. UWH serves approximately 301 customers in Hampton Township, Sussex County. UWVH serves approximately 540 customers in Vernon Township, Sussex County. UWL serves approximately 1750 customers in the City of Lambertville and portions of the Township of West Amwell, Hunterdon County.

It appearing that the proposed revisions will increase existing rates and change or alter existing classifications in Petitioner's tariff, it is <u>HEREBY ORDERED</u> that:

- (1) Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-21, the proposed revisions be, and are suspended until July 30, 2007, unless the Board prior to that date makes a determination disposing of the petition;
- (2) Joint Petitioners shall, at least ten (10) days prior to the date set for hearing on the petition by the Office of Administrative Law, file with this Board and with the Office of Administrative Law (33 Washington Street, Newark, N.J. 07102) proof of compliance with the Notice provisions of N.J.S.A. 48:2-32.2 and N.J.A.C. 14:1-5.12 (b) and (c), which Notice shall include a statement that any relief found by the Board to be just and reasonable may be allocated by the Board to any class or classes of customers on any rate or schedule as the Board may determine; and

(3) Joint Petitioners shall, at the same time they file with this Board, also file proof of service of copies of this Order upon the Office of Administrative Law, the Division of Rate Counsel (31 Clinton Street, P.O. Box 46005, Newark, NJ 07102), the clerks of each affected municipality, the clerks to the Boards of Chose Freeholders of each affected county, and where appropriate, the executive officer of each affected county within its service area. Service of the petition, notice of hearings and this Suspension Order may be made simultaneously.

DATED: 3/22/07

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES BY:

JEANNE M. FOX **PRESIDENT**

FREDERICKE

COMMISSIONER

CONNIE O. HUGHES COMMISSIONER

OSEPH L. FIORDALISO

COMMISSIONER

CHRISTINE V. BATOR COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

SECRETARY

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the within document is a true copy of the original in the files of the Board of Public Utilities

I/M/O THE JOINT PETITION OF UNITED WATER NEW JERSEY, INC.,
UNITED WATER ARLINGTON HILLS, INC., UNITED WATER HAMPTON, INC.,
UNITED WATER VERNON HILLS, INC., AND UNITED WATER LAMBERTVILLE, INC.
FOR APPROVAL OF AN INCREASE IN RATES FOR WATER SERVICE
AND OTHER TARIFF CHANGES; AND FOR APPROVAL TO MERGE
THE OPERATIONS OF THE JOINT PETITIONERS INTO, AND WITH,
UNITED WATER NEW JERSEY, INC.

BPU DOCKET NO. WR07020135

SERVICE LIST

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Elise Goldblat, Esq., DAG Suzana Loncar, Esq., DAG Department of Law and Public Safety Division of Law 124 Halsey St. 5th Floor P.O. Box 45029 Newark, NJ 07101